

Message Text

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USDAO NDJAMENA CHAD

S E C R E T YAOUNDE 5579

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CM
SUBJ: PREPARATION OF CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION DOCUMENT (CPD)
FOR FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 297352, (B) YAOUNDE 3549, (C) YAOUNDE 3484

1. SUMMARY: YAOUNDE REFTELS TRANSMITTED OUR PREVIOUS RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES CONCERNING US INTERESTS. THIS TELEGRAM PROVIDE INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A QUESTIONS CONCERNING PARAS 3A AND 3B 1 THROUGH 2 ON THE JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND INITIAL GURC INQUIRIES CONCERNING A POSSIBLE IMET. INFORMATION CONCERNING FMS CREDIT AND COMMERCIAL PURCHASES FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM: SINCE INDEPENDENCE GURC HAS BEEN MOST STABLE GOVERNMENT IN AREA AND HAS CONSISTENTLY SHOWN MODERATE PRO-WESTERN ORIENTATION. GURC FEELS THREATENED BY UNSTABLE SURROUNDING STATES AND IN PARTICULAR BY NEIGHBORING

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RADICAL STATES OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND CONGO, WHICH HAVE RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM USSR, CUBA, AND PRC. THE COMMUNIST-SUPPORTED UPC HAS OPERATED OUT OF CONGO AND GURC FEARS THAT IT MAY AGAIN MOUNT ARMED INCURSIONS. IN ADDITION, BASING ITSELF ON ITS PERCEPTION OF EVENTS IN ANGOLA AND THE HORN, GURC BELIEVES IT MAY BE TARGET OF USSR AND/OR ITS CUBAN SURROGATES. WHILE GURC PERCEPTION OF THE THREAT

TO ITS STABILITY MAY BE OVERDRAW, AN FMS CREDIT PROGRAM WILL BE POSITIVE INDICATION OF US SUPPORT FOR GURC. ITS PRIMARY AIM WILL BE TO BUTTRESS GURC SO IT WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE TO MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT MODERATE, PRO-WESTERN COURSE. THE SCNDARY AIM OF PROGRAM WILL BE INCREASE STRENGTH OF GURC ARMED FORCES SO THEY CAN SERVE AS CREDIBLE DETERRENT AGAINST POSSIBLE THREATS. THIS WILL, OF COURSE, SERVE PROMOTE GENERAL STABILITY OF ENTIRE AREA.

3. IN TERMS US FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS, CAMEROON APPEARS TO BE ONLY COUNTRY IN REGION CAPABLE OF ORGANIZING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO BECOME NET EXPORTER FOOD PRODUCTS. ALREADY EXPORTER OF MEAP AND VEGETABLES, CURRENT PLANS CALL FOR CAMEROON TO PRODUCE WITHIN NEXT FIVE YEARS SUFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES TO EXPORT RICE, SUGAR, WHEAT AND CORN. THIS SHOULD ENABLE CAMEROON TO PROVIDE MUCH OF FOOD DEFICITS OF ITS NEIGHBORS, THEREBY RELIEVING PRESSURES ON USG TO PROVIDE FOOD, EXCEPT DISASTER RELIEF. FMS CREDIT PROGRAM WILL SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF STABILITY NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN FIRMS (INCLUDING US COMPANIES) TO INVEST TO BRING THESE PROJECTS TO FRUITION.

4. WHILE THERE ARE NO US SECURITY INTERESTS DIRECTLY INVOLVED, SUPPORT OF STABLE, MODERATE, AND BASICALLY PRO-WESTERN GOVERNMENT WILL BETTER INSURE UNITED STATES AND FRIENDLY WESTERN POWER
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ACCESS TO RAW MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY NEXT YEAR WHEN CAMEROON BEGINS ITS MODEST CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION AT 20-30,000 B/D. IN ADDITION, NEIGHBORING NIGERI A AND GABON SHIP ALMOST TWO MILLION B /
D
OF OIL TO US.

5. ON RECEIPT OF REFTTEL A, EMBASSY OFFICERS INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH IBRAHIMA WADJIRI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES. DURING DISCUSSIONS WADJIRI INDICATED THAT IN ADDITION EQUIPMENT NEEDS, CAMEROONIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE REQUIREMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL MILITARY TRAINING AT BOTH OFFICER AND NCO LEVEL. HE SAID OFFICERS CURRENTLY BEING TRAINED FRANCE, UK, GERMANY, CANADA, GREECE, MOROCCO AND ALGERIA, BUT AVAILABLE SLOTS NOT SUFFICIENT TO TRAIN AS MANY MEN TO THE REQUIRED LEVEL AS GURC WOULD LIKE. FROM HIS DESCRIPTION, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT GURC WOULD LIKE BASIC PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR NCO'S AND OFFICERS AND ADVANCED TRAINING SUCH AS AVAILABLE THROUGH FORT LEAVENWORTH GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE AND NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE. HE WAS TOLD THAT TRAINING REQUESTS REQUIRED A SEPARATE APPROVAL PROCEDURE, THAT IT WAS NOT KNOWN IF CAMEROON WERE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM OR IF ANY FUNDS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, BUT THAT

A FORMAL REQUEST SHOULD BE MADE AND THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP.
THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE A MODEST
IMET PROGRAM BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE \$100,000 TO \$200,000
LEVEL FOR FY 79. FURTHER DETAILS OF GURC REQUIREMENTS WILL BE
FRUNISHED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
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